



Dear Members,

In light of the recent devastating fire in Fall River, we encourage all assisted living communities to take some time to **review, audit, and update their disaster preparedness protocols** to help ensure the continued safety and well-being of residents and staff.

Key Areas to Review:

Evacuation Readiness

- Ensure your evacuation plan is detailed and current.
- Update your resident evacuation list with names, unit numbers, mobility or cognitive support needs, and assistive devices.

Building Maintenance & Equipment Checks

- Inspect and maintain fire alarms, sprinklers, emergency lighting, and generators.
- Check that fire extinguishers are charged and accessible.
- Confirm emergency supplies (food, water, blankets, batteries) are stocked and not expired.

Disaster Preparedness Audit

- Review your Emergency & Disaster Manual to include:
 - Staff response protocols for all disasters (fire, weather, epidemic, building issues).
 - Vendor phone numbers and emergency supply agreements.
 - Transportation agreements and evacuation sites.
 - Updated resident evacuation assistance lists and face sheets.
 - Evacuation routes and procedures.

Fire Drills & Staff Training

- Conduct/document fire drills on all shifts, including simulated evacuations when appropriate.
- Ensure staff know their assigned roles and resident-specific needs during emergencies.

Resident & Staff Communication

- Ensure every resident is informed of the disaster preparedness plan at move-in and that it is posted in their apartment.
- Train all new employees on your disaster and emergency preparedness plan promptly upon hire.

Regional Disaster Preparedness Programs

- ALRs can consider being part of a regional disaster preparedness program. One that is very prominent in our area is [MassMAP](#) (Massachusetts Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan).
- Being part of a regional program is important to ensure coordinated support during large-scale emergencies.

Upcoming Mass-ALA Trainings on Disaster Preparedness

Mass-ALA offers several upcoming trainings to help strengthen your community's preparedness:

- [Boot Camp: September 16, 2025](#)
- **Compliance Series:**
 - [Boot Camp – November 18, 2025](#)
 - [QA/QI – November 25, 2025](#)
 - [Safety Committee & Survey Readiness – December 2, 2025](#)

- Sign up for individual sessions or [take the whole series by signing up here.](#)

Each session includes disaster preparedness, safety, and compliance topics to support your leadership teams in operational readiness.

By conducting these reviews and ensuring staff training, your community will remain well prepared in the event of a disaster or fire. Please reach out if you need further guidance, training resources, or information to be prepared.

Thank you for your commitment to safety and excellence.

*If you have any questions, please contact us at Mass-ALA@mass-ala.org.
This update is solely for general informational purposes. It is not intended to replace a full review of the cited regulations or guidance.*

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